

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 185

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SAG FOREIGN POLICY

SUMMARY: IN CONVERSATION WITH AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARENALES AND PRETORIA EMBOFFS, SAG INFORMATION SECRETARY ESCHER RHODIE DISCUSSED RECENT US CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA, CONFIRMED HIS DEPARTMENT PLANNING STEP UP CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS, AND GAVE VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES INVOLVING SAG. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DFA AFRICA DIVISION HEAD P. R. KILLEN PROVIDED INSIGHTS INTO SAG POLICY TOWARD CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC AND MOZAMBIQUE. END SUMMARY.

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1. ACCOMPANIED BY PRETORIA EMBOFFS, AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ARENALES HAD 70- MINUTE CONVERSATION IN PRETORIA WITH SAG INFORMATION SECRETARY ESCHER RHOODIE. IN FRANK BUT CORDIAL TALK, RHOODIE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST:

A. RHOODIE CONFIRMED THAT SAG INFORMATION EFFORT IN U.S. WILL FOCUS INCREASINGLY ON "DECISION MAKERS AND OPINION FORMERS", PARTICULARLY INCLUDING MEMBERS US CONGRESS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RECENT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA BY SIX CONGRESSMEN WAS RESULT THIS NEW EMPHASIS, AND SAID HE PLANS INVITE ADDITIONAL CONGRESSMEN AND SOME SENATORS IN FUTURE. SAID HE PLANNING TRIP TO US AROUND MID-YEAR DURING WHICH HE WILL PERSONALLY EXTEND INVITATIONS TO SELECTED (UNIDENTIFIED) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. HE WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF US LEGISLATION WHICH PREVENTS CONGRESSMEN FROM ACCEPTING VISITS PAID FOR BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORED BY THEM. SAID HE IS LOOKING INTO POSSIBILITY HAVING FUTURE VISITS ARRANGED THROUGH "PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS" SUCH AS SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION.

B. IN DISCUSSION OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING CODEL DIGGS, RHOODIE LEARNED FROM HIS VISITORS THAT SENATOR KENNEDY STAFFER BATES HAD BEEN DENIED SOUTH AFRICAN VISA. HE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE AT THIS, ASKING VISITORS IF THEY KNEW WHY. VISITORS SPECULATED DENIAL MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON BELIEF BATES WAS MEMBER OF CODEL DIGGS. RHOODIE STATED FIRMLY HE WOULD LOOK INTO THIS TO DETERMINE WHO HAD DENIED BATES A VISA AND WHY, ADDING THAT HE WOULD PERSONALLY INVITE BATES TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA AT LATTER'S CONVENIENCE.

C. RHOODIE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT HE PLANNING BEEF-UP WASHINGTON INFORMATION OFFICE BY TRANSFERRING TWO OFFICERS FROM NEW YORK. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION ON THIS NOT YET FIRM AND THAT IN ANY EVENT MOVE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE JUNE OR JULY.

D. RHOODIE SAID TWO BLACK OFFICERS, ONE INDIAN OFFICER AND ONE COLORED OFFICER WOULD BE ATTACHED TO SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON BY OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1975. BOTH BLACKS WOULD BE FROM TRANSKEI, WOULD BE IN TRAINING STATUS AND, TOGETHER WITH FEW OTHER TRANSKEIANS SPRINKLED IN SOUTH AFRICAN

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EMBASSIES ELSEWHERE, WOULD FORM NUCLEUS OF FUTURE TRANSKEI FOREIGN SERVICE. UPON TRANSKEI INDEPENDENCE, WASHINGTON EMBASSY BLACKS WOULD EITHER RETURN TO UMTATA TO HELP STAFF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT OR MIGHT EVENTUALLY STAFF TRANSKEIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AT THIS POINT RHOODIE ASKED IF USG HAD BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. HE WAS TOLD USG HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED SUCH EVENTUALITY AND THAT RECENT ARENALES VISIT TO TRANSKEI HAD

SHOWN MUCH REMAINED BE DONE BEFORE INDEPENDENCE IN FACT ACHIEVED. RHOODIE SEEMED SATISFIED WITH THIS RESPONSE.

E. RESPONDING TO QUESTION, RHOODIE SAID HE GAVE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT NO MORE THAN 50-50 CHANCE OF SUCCESS. HE CITED PROBLEMS ON BOTH SIDES, AND FELT THAT ANC UNNECESSARILY EXACERBATING MATTERS BY CONTINUALLY REMINDING WHITES OF RACIAL ASPECT OF SITUATION. RHOODIE SAID BE BELIEVED ATMOSPHERE OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE IMPROVED IF, FOR INSTANCE, ANC COULD BE INDUCED TO SPEAK OF "MAJORITY RULE" RATHER THAN OF "BLACK MAJORITY RULE". AFTER ALL, HE SAID, EVERYONE KNOWS IT MEANS SAME THING, SO WHY RUB IT IN? HE INDICATED HOPE SOMEONE WOULD BRING THIS TO ANC'S ATTENTION. HE WAS GIVEN NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

F. RE NAMIBIA, RHOODIE INDICATED THAT SAG SIMPLY COULD NOT DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT SATISFY UN SECURITY COUNCIL BY MAY 30, BUT HE DID KNOW THAT SAG COULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEM BY THEN. RHOODIE SAID SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WOULD BE ATTAINED BY LATE 1976 REPEAT 1976. HE SAID HE HOPED FURTHER UN ACTION COULD BE PUT OFF UNTIL THEN, BUT DID NOT APPEAR TO BELIEVE IT WOULD. HE WAS REMINDED THAT NOT ONLY SOUTH AFRICA BUT ALL MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL FACE MAY 30 DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTION 366. HE NODDED AGREEMENT.

G. RHOODIE SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT HE DID NOT BELIEVE NAMIBIA WOULD BECOME AN INDEPENDENT UNITARY STATE. HE INSISTED THERE WAS TOO MUCH OPPOSITION TO (AND FEAR OF) OVAMBO DOMINATION. CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID, HE FORESAW A SEPARATE OVAMBOLAND AND A FEDERATION OF THE OTHER PEOPLES OF NAMIBIA. HE DID NOT ADDRESS QUESTION OF WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA INTENDS FURTHER FEDERATION WITH ITSELF.

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H. ADDRESSING ISSUE OF SAG'S OUTWARD THRUST INTO BLACK AFRICA, RHOODIE SAID A NUMBER OF NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING ENGLISH-SPEAKING ONES, WOULD SURFACE THIS YEAR, AND THAT PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S SIX-TO-TWELVE MONTH FORECAST WOULD SHOW DRAMATIC RESULTS. PRESSED FOR DETAILS (VISITORS WERE AWARE OF VORSTER'S THEN STRONGLY-RUMORED VISIT TO LIBERIA), RHOODIE SAID HE COULD NOT LET CAT OUT OF BAG, BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WHEN VISITORS NOTED THAT MORNING PRESS REPORTED VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA OF OFFICIAL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DELEGATION.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION, P. R. KILLEN, HEAD OF AFRICA DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAID CAR DELEGATION NEWS HAD BEEN LEAKED AND THAT DFA CONSIDERED LEAK

UNFORTUNATE. ASKED WHY CAR IS LOOKING TO SOUTH AFRICA, KILLEN SAID CAR HAD NO CHOICE IN MATTER, INDICATING IT WAS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY TO DEAL WITH SAG. ON OTHER SIDE OF QUESTION, KILLEN SAID SAG HAD NO SPECIAL INTEREST IN CAR BUT COULD NOT LET HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY DOWN. HE DID NOT ELABORATE.

3. KILLEN AGREED WITH EARLIER RHOODIE COMMENT THAT IMPROVEMENT IN SAG'S RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN COUNTRIES WAS RESULT OF HARD WORK OVER PAST TWO OR THREE YEARS, BUT ADDED THAT CHANGE IN AFRICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA DATED ONLY FROM TIME AFRICANS BECAME CONVINCED SAG INTENDED RESPECT INTEGRITY OF TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE. ASKED HOW SAG-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS PROGRESSING, KILLEN SAID TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAD RECEIVED OAU "CLEARANCE" TO DEAL WITH SAG ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND THAT SUCH MATTERS WERE NOW BEING HANDLED SATISFACTORILY. THESE INCLUDED EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVING SITUATION AT PORT OF LOURENCO MARQUES, PROVISION OF WHEAT, ALBEIT IN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT, TO MOZAMBIQUE, AND PROVISION OF SOME LOCOMOTIVE AND OTHER ROLLING STOCK TO IMPROVE RAIL TRANSPORTATION. (SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION IN LOURENCO MARQUES WITH SOUTH AFRICAN CONSUL GENERAL TO MOZAMBIQUE CONFIRMED GENERAL THRUST OF KILLEN'S REMARKS ON MOZAMBIQUE-SAG RELATIONS BUT PROVIDED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.) KILLEN LET NO OTHER CATS OUT OF BAG. HAUGHT
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